

OKLAHOMA | WINGSPAN

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UPCOMING EVENTS

January	
14	FRO Training
21	IC Staff Tabletop
22	Evaluator Course
February	
18-20	Cadet Conference
18-20	CLC
25-26	CD Training
March	
3-5	Wing Conference
11-12	Aircrew/Ground Team Academics
18	ICS 200



COMMENTS FROM THE COMMANDER

Col Joe R. Smith

I hope everyone has a happy and safe holiday season.

A lot of new things have happened at the Wing Headquarters. We have officially welcomed our new Wing Administrator, Marlene Webster. Marlene is originally a Kansas native but calls Oklahoma home now with her husband and 3 children. Marlene has experience with federal agencies, book keeping and computers, and is a member of OK-113. Marlene can be reached at Wing Headquarters from 7:30 am to 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday. Please join me in making her feel welcome. The Wing HQ office can be contacted by email at OKWingHQ@yahoo.com or 405-736-6044. Marlene will eventually be taking over the financial duties of Kathey Suarez, but not overnight. Kathey will still be helping out in her Wonder-Woman book-keeping job for awhile. Speaking of Kathey, the Oklahoma Wing just completed its annual financial audit and we passed with only one small write up. Outstanding job Kathey!

Kudos's go out to the Flying Castle Squadron for hosting the SAREX at Tinker AFB in November. This is the first time we have held a SAREX at Tinker, but things went smoothly and professionally, thanks to thorough planning and preparation, as well as effectively supervised execution. We got some valuable training accomplished and Lt Cathey Davis of OK-074 was credited with sighting a grass fire. Oklahoma CAP fire spotting missions this past week observed and reported 36 unattended fires, preventing damage to homes and property. Those missions continue this coming week, but under AFNSEP status. See CAPR 60-3 if you don't remember what that means!

Happy Holidays

COMMENTS FROM THE COMMANDER - CONTINUED*Col. Joe R. Smith*

-Continued on Page Two-

Thanks to NHQ sending US ADDITIONAL Toshiba laptop computers, we were able to use the newest version of the IMU program at the SAREX. Major Kevin Schoen, our USAF Reservist, with the help of Lt Col Paul Spencer and the Tinker Communications Squadron, made it possible for us to use our new internet access and link multiple computers to the emergency services database on a National Headquarters server. Yes, you heard correctly, the Wing Headquarters now has internet access. There are some security protocols built into the system, so to avoid problems contact Lt Col Spencer or Major Schoen before you try to plug into the V-LAN.

This month we look forward to seeing which squadron will be sending a Color Guard team to the National Cadet Competition. Good Luck competitors! Cadet Special Activities applications (CAP Forms 31) are due by the 31st of December. Check the CAP News for all the great opportunities/activities planned for this year. The OK Wing will once again be hosting a National Flight Academy in Muskogee this summer. Thanks to Lt Col Don Van Alstine for setting everything up. We will also host IACE cadets again at the end of July, and Xan Bryant has volunteered to run that program for as again. Thanks Xan!

Merry Christmas from the Smith's, Joe, Harriet and Sandy

Editor's Note: The following comments were received after November Oklahoma WingSpan had gone to print and while a little late, I believe that they are still noteworthy and need to be shared.

I recently processed paperwork for about 20 ribbons for the volunteers who supported Hurricane Katrina and Rita recovery operations. As I worked on the words of each justification, it really refreshed in my mind the conviction that we truly are blessed with outstanding volunteers in the Oklahoma Wing. When you see the people who supported those operations, whether it was in Louisiana, Texas, or here in Oklahoma, I encourage you to say thanks. Their generous contributions of their time and talents made all of us here in Oklahoma, and CAP on a national-level, look good.

I would also like to again thank Lt Col Aaron Wardlaw for a tremendous job putting on our first-ever Wing Safety Day on 22 October. It was a great success and a lot of fun as well. If you were not one of the 166 people who attended, you need to make up the safety day material before participating in any CAP activity.

Col. Joe R. Smith - Wing Commander



HOLIDAY TRAVELS

“Over the river and through the woods
To Grandmother’s house we go.”

Every year thousands of people are treated in emergency rooms for Holiday related accidents. Everything from traffic accidents and food poisoning to fires from holiday decorations can turn a season of happiness and joy into a time of sadness and grief.

If you are planning on traveling this year, plan ahead and be safe. Make sure your vehicle is ready for the trip by checking your oil, antifreeze, windshield wipers and battery. Your heater and defroster should be working properly. Check the tires for air pressure and tread depth.

Keep an emergency kit in your car with an ice scraper, flashlight, blanket, first-aid kit, and other items that you might require.

Keep an eye on the weather. Program your cell phone with phone numbers for highway patrol in the areas that you will be traveling. Road Conditions for a few states are:

Oklahoma	405-425-2385
Kansas	1-800-585-7623
Texas	1-800-452-9292

Take control and be responsible for your own safety and that of your loved ones, so that next year everyone can be reunited again in happiness and joy.

“Semper Vigilans”

Performing Missions for America

PLANE OF LIFE

Author Unknown

Some folks ride the plane of life
Looking out the rear,
Watching miles of life fly by,
And marking every year.

They sit in sad remembrance,
Of wasted days gone by,
And curse their life for what it was,
And hang their head and cry.

But I don't concern myself with that,
I took a different vent,
I look forward to what life holds,
And not what has been spent.

So strap me to the nose cone,
As securely as I can be,
I want to be out on the front,
To see what I can see.

I want to feel the winds of change,
Blowing in my face,
I want to see what life unfolds,
As I move from place to place.

I want to see what's coming up,
Not looking at the past,
Life's too short for yesterdays,
It moves along too fast.

So if the ride gets bumpy,
While looking back where you've been
Go up front, and you may find,
Your life is off it's flight plan again.

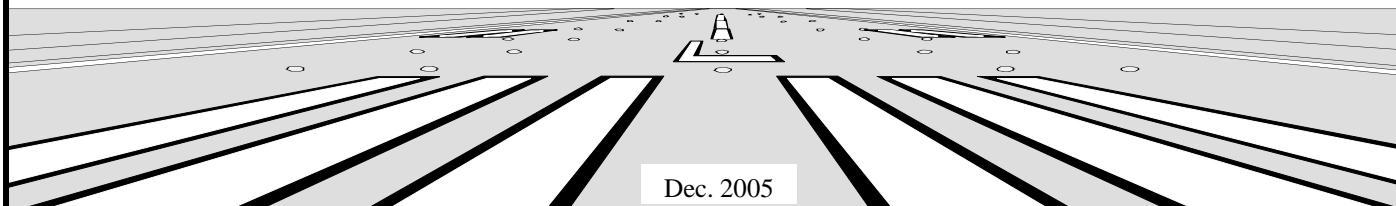
It's all right to remember,
That's part of history,
But up front's where it's happening,
There's so much mystery.

The enjoyment of living,
Is not where we have been, It's looking ever
forward,
To another year and ten.

It's searching all the byways,
Never should you refrain,
For if you want to live your life,
You gotta drive the plane!

*The OKLAHOMA WINGSPAN is the official newsletter of the Oklahoma Wing of Civil Air Patrol
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*Deadline for submission of articles is 25th of each month and newsletters will distributed at the monthly
Wing Staff Meeting. Items will be approved by the Wing Commander and printed according
to importance, timeliness, and available space. Articles submitted are printed "As-Is" and the Public
Affairs Officer assumes no responsibility for correctness, punctuation, and grammar.
Comments or articles can be submitted to the attention of OK WINGSPAN at OkHorseFly@aol.com.*



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